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GUY P. JONES
 EDITOR

**Status of Sanocrysin
 in Tuberculosis Treatment.**

Claims of the discovery of a cure for tuberculosis in sanocrysin have been read eagerly by many thousands of interested individuals in California. In response to many requests for information regarding the effectiveness of sanocrysin in the treatment of tuberculosis, there is published herewith a statement by Dr. Linsley Williams, managing director of the National Tuberculosis Association, which represents the most authentic opinion regarding the present status of this drug:

"Sanocrysin, an alleged cure for tuberculosis, used by Holger Mollgaard, professor of physiology at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural College of Copenhagen, Denmark, is described by the National Tuberculosis Association as a drug, the claims for which as a cure have not been proven. Tuberculosis patients and others are advised by the association not to place false hopes in the many highly exaggerated statements regarding sanocrysin that have been made by various people."

Dr. Linsley R. Williams, managing director, speaking for the association, stated that for the first time it is now possible to review the claims of sanocrysin, since Professor Mollgaard's book on this subject has just arrived in the United States. Dr. Williams bases his statements on a study of this book.

"The drug is an old one," says Dr. Williams, "a combination of gold and sulphur salts, technically known as gold-sodium-thio-sulphate. Professor Mollgaard used it on animals that had tuberculosis and found that it was an extremely dangerous drug, which produced fatal results in many cases. In ordinary doses, however, it is not dangerous to those who have no tuberculosis. When sanocrysin was first used on animals, it produced a reaction, with fever and loss of weight, which was so violent that sometimes as many as half of the animals died. A serum was then prepared from animals previously treated with dead tubercle bacilli and this was used to counteract the violent reaction. Professor Mollgaard states in his book that the danger was reduced to a minimum and that good results were obtained. These claims for favorable results must be based upon the use of the serum in conjunction with the gold salt and not upon the use of the drug alone.

"The larger part of Professor Mollgaard's work is based upon experiments with animals in which he has obtained good results. In his book he quotes a report prepared by Dr. K. Secher and other physicians with a number of human patients treated by them in various hospitals in Copenhagen. These results are not convincing. Some reports of improvement are given, as well a number of failures and a considerable number of deaths.

"Because of the nature of sanocrysin and its method of use, the regulations of

the United States Public Health Service require that a license be issued before the drug can be used in interstate commerce. A study of the claims of Professor Mollgaard with reference to sanocrysin is now being made by the hygienic laboratory of the United States Public Health Service under the direction of Assistant Surgeon General Dr. G. W. McCoy.

"At the request of the medical research committee of the National Tuberculosis Association, similar experiments are now being conducted by Dr. Theobald Smith, department of animal pathology, Rockefeller Institute, Princeton, N. J.; Dr. William H. Park of the laboratory of the New York City Health Department, and Dr. E. C. Schroeder, director of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. All of these scientists are conducting experiments on calves. It will take a number of months before they are completed. The results of these experiments will be compared with those of the United States Public Health Service before any treatment of human beings will be considered. If, after the animal experiments are completed, sufficient evidence is secured to warrant the use of sanocrysin upon human beings suffering from tuberculosis, a study of the possibility of such treatment will then be made under the supervision of one of the Danish physicians who has had experience in the use of the drug. His work would be under the supervision of the United States Public Health Service. These experiments will take at least six months to a year. In the meantime the use of sanocrysin in the United States is practically prohibited.

"In view of the serious danger involved in the use of sanocrysin and in view of the extended study now being made, patients affected with tuberculosis are cautioned not to be unduly optimistic in regard to this drug. No patient should discontinue the well-known methods for the cure of tuberculosis by proper regulation of their lives with special emphasis upon rest, food and fresh air, under competent medical direction."

In further comment, Dr. Williams says that the National Tuberculosis Association has long hoped for specific cure of tuberculosis, but that the difficulties of finding such a cure are almost insuperable. He hopes, however, that this drug, sanocrysin, might later be made safe and so developed as to add something to the treatment of this scourge, although, he says, he is not very optimistic as to the outlook.

Is the Automobile a Public Health Problem?

The increasing number of deaths by automobiles causes many newspapers throughout the state to demand that something be done to reduce the numbers of deaths from this cause. In commenting upon the thousand persons killed by automobiles in California last year, the *El Centro Press* says:

"Suppose there had been an outbreak of disease and an epidemic had carried away a full thousand of people, many of them our best and most prominent citizens; what would have happened? There would have been a panic in California. All the resources of the great state would have been brought to play to put an end to it. And the machinery of the federal government would likewise have been requisitioned for the same purpose. Medical science would have mustered its greatest men and they would have entered into a hand-to-hand conflict with the destroyer. They would have ignored their own safety and perhaps sacrificed their own lives on the altar of service.

"It was even so when the plague of hoof and mouth disease broke out among the kine and the swine of the state. But not a thousand cattle and hogs died from the disease. To be sure there would have been that many or more had there not been sturdy and effective resistance.

"Will anyone contend that our kine and our swine are more valuable to the state than are its people? Hardly, we think, but the situation indicates it. One thousand human beings lost their lives in California through the auto juggernaut last year. Nearly as many perished the year before and during each of several years before that. And an unnumbered host will be slain in the years to come.

"What are we going to do about it?"

"We are making futile efforts, but the death list keeps mounting. We enact safety laws and devise safety appliances, yet the mortality increases. Somehow there must be elimination of all drivers who possess mental or physical defects. Because a man or a woman is able to pay a dollar down and a dollar a month for a Ford is not proof of their ability to run it without great risk to those aboard and to those around. There will always be the factor of mechanical defects, but these are negligible compared to human defects. We are spending huge fortunes for building highways and are spending additional fortunes to fill them with engines of destruction."

Prepare Now For Children's Camps.

Summer camps for children will soon be in operation throughout the state. The benefits derived from these camps are, without doubt, of great value to most of the children who are cared for. The individuals who have charge over these youngsters, however, are carrying grave responsibilities. Not only is it their duty to make certain that standard sanitary equipment is installed and maintained efficiently throughout the camp, but they must also make certain that adequate facilities for the detection and control of communicable diseases are provided. The assembly of a large number of children, particularly if they come from widely scattered districts, involves a distinct hazard in the transmission of communicable diseases. There are almost certain to be carriers and cases of transmissible diseases in any such large group of children. It behooves those who have charge of summer camps to provide facilities for the examination of all children before they encamp, as well as at frequent intervals during their attendance. Furthermore, provision must be made for prompt isolation of those who may become ill as well as for the immediate adoption of such control measures as the occasion may require. All of the benefits that an outing in the open air may bring, can easily be nullified or even made a lifelong liability, if a serious outbreak of communicable disease appears among children in the camp.

Wise executives will insist that immunization against typhoid fever and smallpox be established as prerequisite for admission to any organized outing or recreation camp. Immunization against diphtheria might well be included, also. According to the records of the California State Board of Health, cases of smallpox, typhoid fever, diphtheria, dysentery and scarlet fever have occurred repeatedly in summer camps for children conducted in many parts of the state. In making preparations for the maintenance of such institutions during the coming months, recognition should be given to the need for taking proper safeguards against these diseases and before children are assembled in camp.

Health Officers Newly Appointed.

Mr. M. B. Ordway has been appointed health officer of Pacific Grove to succeed Mr. Frank B. Wilcoxon. Mr. M. G. Frost has been appointed health officer of Placerville to succeed Mr. Roy McCall.

Death Takes Two Public Health Nurses.

Miss Catharine Wallace, school nurse at Pittsburg, and Miss Lucy J. Howatt, Red Cross nurse at Suisun, died recently. Miss Howatt met with an automobile accident while on duty, in which she was instantly killed. Miss Wallace died after a short illness. Both of these nurses rendered valuable services in their respective communities and had established themselves firmly in the esteem of the people of their districts. The depth of this esteem and the appreciation of the public health nurse's work is reflected in the following editorial from the *Pittsburg Dispatch*:

"The poor, the suffering and the kiddies—to them she dedicated her life and it was to them that she gave it when she ignored the advice of her physician to stop for a while and rest when sickness came. She carried on, her little friends needed her, the school needed her, and then—the end.

It will be difficult to fill the place of Miss Wallace in the school department. It will be more difficult still to fill her place in the hearts of the little folk and in the heart of the community where the bigness of her soul and the broadness of her vision was manifest through a conscientious, unselfish—and even thankless—service.

To her little friends she left cherished mementoes as material evidence of her love and understanding. To the community she left a great humanitarian work, a health department in the Pittsburg schools second to none in California, as a memorial builded by her own hands and dedicated to a city she had learned to love through seven years of cheerful sacrifice and philanthropic service."



Massachusetts Cares For Dependent Children.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare has a staff of trained visitors who supervise the dependent and delinquent children under the care of the department. The 1923 annual report of the department says:

"Each of the four nurse visitors is responsible for the care in foster homes in a district near Boston of 100 babies under 3 years of age. A measure of the effort made by these nurses may be found in the number of babies' lives saved by the system of good family care and by the nurses' supervision. In 1880, 47 per cent of the infants supported died; in 1923 only 3 per cent died."

MORBIDITY.***Diphtheria.**

107 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 10, San Francisco 16, Los Angeles County 15, Oakland 12, San Diego 5, Sacramento 2, Yuba County 1, El Segundo 2, Kings County 1, Hermosa Beach 2, Huntington Park 3, Chico 2, Glendale 2, Riverside 1, National City 1, Palo Alto 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Torrance 1, Petaluma 1, Watsonville 2, Los Gatos 1, Turlock 2, Sunnyvale 2, Fresno 1, San Jose 2, Butte County 1, Santa Barbara 1, Sonoma County 1, Richmond 1, Pacific Grove 1, Tulare County 1, Inyo County 1, Stanislaus County 1, Compton 1, Long Beach 2, San Joaquin County 2, Stockton 2, Burbank 1, Montebello 1, Anaheim 1.

Scarlet Fever.

132 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 35, Orange County 5, San Francisco 11, Stockton 5, Los Angeles County 17, Long Beach 12, Fullerton 1, Tulare County 2, Visalia 1, Siskiyou County 1, Pomona 4, Glendora 1, Redlands 1, Alhambra 1, Riverside 1, Lemoore 1, Bakersfield 1, San Diego County 2, San Leandro 3, Hanford 1, Oakland 3, Gilroy 1, Covina 1, Ventura 1, Santa Barbara 2, San Jose 3, Sonoma County 2, Redwood City 2, Santa Barbara County 1, Alameda 1, San Mateo County 1, San Bernardino County 1, Kings County 1, Fresno County 1, Orange 1, San Joaquin County 1, San Diego 1, Madera 1, Montebello 1.

Measles.

54 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 17, San Bernardino County 5, Los Angeles County 11, Orange County 1, Fullerton 1, San Fernando 3, Whittier 1, Huntington Park 2, Monrovia 1, Inyo County 1, Santa Barbara 1, San Diego 4, Stockton 1, San Joaquin County 1, Tracy 2, San Francisco 2.

Smallpox.

170 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 42, San Francisco 7, San Diego 37, Los Angeles County 20, Compton 5, Orange County 5, Oakland 7, National City 3, Ventura 1, Stanislaus County 3, Santa Rosa 1, Sonoma County 1, San Jose 2, Santa Maria 1, Orcutt 1, Livermore 2, Redwood City 1, San Mateo County 1, Oxnard 4, Sacramento 1, Santa Ana 1, Fullerton 1, Yuba County 3, Long Beach 2, Maywood 4, Huntington Park 1, Redlands 1, Ventura County 2, San Diego County 2, Kern County 3, Eldorado County 3, Plumas County 1, Colusa County 1.

Whooping Cough.

132 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 30, San Francisco 14, Los Angeles County 13, San Diego 11, Long Beach 5, El Segundo 7, Hanford 5, Oakland 7, Compton 4, Stockton 4, San Joaquin County 4, Lodi 2, Whittier 1, Alhambra 3, Salinas 1, Monterey County 4, Pittsburg 1, San Diego County 2, Blythe 1, Glendale 2, Fairfield 2, San Luis Obispo County 1, San Jose 2, Fresno County 2, Santa Ana 1, Sacramento 1, Anaheim 2.

Typhoid Fever.

8 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Stanislaus County 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 3, Sacramento County 1, California 1.

Epidemic Meningitis.

Alameda and San Francisco each reported one case of epidemic meningitis.

Poliomyelitis.

Alameda reported three cases of poliomyelitis.

Epidemic Encephalitis.

Sonoma County reported one case of epidemic encephalitis.

*From reports received on February 23 and 24 for week ending February 21.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS.

Disease	1925				1924			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Feb. 21 received by Feb. 24	Week ending			Reports for week ending Feb. 23 received by Feb. 26
	Jan. 31	Feb. 7	Feb. 14		Feb. 2	Feb. 9	Feb. 16	
Anthrax.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chickenpox.....	399	462	384	310	442	497	483	397
Diphtheria.....	175	156	138	107	323	267	285	184
Dysentery (Bacillary).....	0	1	0	0	2	3	1	1
Epidemic Encephalitis.....	0	4	1	1	5	4	2	3
Epidemic Meningitis.....	4	2	1	2	0	1	3	2
Gonorrhoea.....	105	87	132	211	68	117	173	49
Influenza.....	76	80	91	146	49	63	36	19
Leprosy.....	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malaria.....	1	3	1	1	5	0	1	1
Measles.....	49	39	38	54	947	1054	986	289
Mumps.....	185	191	163	212	47	39	55	28
Plague.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia.....	98	92	151	91	104	90	83	45
Poliomyelitis.....	6	2	5	3	1	1	1	2
Scarlet Fever.....	171	170	151	132	360	310	283	152
Smallpox.....	182	179	165	170	374	392	295	346
Syphilis.....	108	138	123	203	56	178	178	35
Tuberculosis.....	172	130	254	277	202	201	228	94
Typhoid Fever.....	9	10	6	8	248	27	22	23
Whooping Cough.....	155	119	202	132	53	61	38	144
Totals.....	1895	1866	2006	2060	3286	3305	3153	2354